

A WARM SHOP

BEXHILL TERRITORIALS AT THE FRONT

SARGENT HARMAN'S TRIBUTE TO DEAD COMRADE

Sergeant E. Harman, of the 5th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment, one of the four soldier sons of Mr and Mrs Harman, of Normanville, Holliers Hill, writing on April 1st, conveys the sad intelligence of the death of his comrade, Private Frank Taylor, to whom he pays a warm tribute and speaks of the experience of the local Territorials in a "warm shop" in the trenches.

"We have just returned from a spell in the trenches at the place where the British had such a brilliant success a little time ago," says Sergeant Harman. "It was a much 'hotter' place than where we had been before and our front resembled a V pushed in the German lines. We had an advanced trench which was only a hundred yards from the enemy, and the worst of it was that you could be enfiladed on practically both flanks. It was a very warm 'shop' at times and the Huns tried to use trench mortars on us, but without much success."

"It is with the deepest regret that I have to inform you of the death of a great friend of mine namely Private Frank Taylor, of Bexhill. He was shot through the head while in the advanced trench. He was a brave chap and was esteemed by all who knew him, and I am sure his parents have the deepest sympathy of the whole company in their sad bereavement. He was only nineteen years of age, and was killed on the 28th inst. and no man could be more greatly missed. Our other casualties, considering our position, were comparatively small, and I am certain the Germans had a warm time during the time we were in."

"We relieved our own regular county regiment, and we are all proud to be in the same brigade. We did three days right off in the trenches and are now back about five miles for three or four days well-earned rest. When the 'Lambs' come out here they must remember that they will have to do almost as much cooking as fighting. For instance, many a time we have halted at a ruined village, and before many minutes you see a dozen or two 'billies' on about the same number of fires, and some people would wonder where they get all the things they put in from. I have see anything from Indian plums to sugar beet put in, and it is astonishing what nice dishes can be turned out from some of the things put in. I see from the papers that some of our Home Service Battalion have been sent into Surrey to look after German prisoners. I think it is a very suitable job, and we will try and send them some more shortly to look after for us. Wishing the 'Lambs' every success when they do come out."